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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3618

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

KPS

Amendment Papers

The reply filed on September 24, 2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): the text of the claims extends substantially into the lower margins of the claim pages and at least one line on each page (the second lines of claims 11 and 21 respectively) has/have been obscured by the 'footer' text of the receiving fax machine, rendering these claims partially unreadable. A copy of these two pages has been attached to the office action for applicant's inspection. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Vanaman whose telephone number is 703-308-0424. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

As of May 1, 2003, any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Or faxed to one of the following fax servers:

Regular Communications/Amendments: 703-872-9326
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F. VANAMAN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3618


11/10/04

Attached: 2 claim pages for inspection

SEP 24 2004 4:34 PM FR DYKEMA GOSSETT BH08 203 0823 TO 917038729326 ~~P.07~~

A. Amendment to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a polymeric platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending along a lateral side of said vehicle; said platform having an upper solid surface reinforced with transverse webs underneath generally perpendicular to said upper solid surface; and

a least first and second spaced apart polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection with said lateral side of said vehicle and said brackets having a lower end transversely extending and integrally connected with said platform and said brackets being co-molded therewith and wherein said brackets have a channel crosssectional configuration with sidewalls continuous with said transverse webs of said platform.

2. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said polymeric material is a plastic.

3. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

4. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is a fiber reinforced plastic.

5. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is taken from the group of polyester and fiberglass fibers.

6. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is a long length of fiber.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 6, wherein said fiber is approximately 12[[++]] millimeters or greater in length.

8-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 1, [[8.]]

12. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said brackets have a triple channel cross-sectional configuration.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein an inner channel juxtaposes two larger width outer channels of said brackets.

14. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 13, wherein said outer channels open toward said vehicle.

15. (CANCELLED) A running board as described in claim 12, wherein said bracket channels have side walls continuous with transverse webs of said platform.

16. (ORIGINAL) A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:
a long fiber reinforced plastic platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a side door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending generally along a lateral side of said vehicle, said platform having a generally upper solid surface reinforced by perpendicular transverse webs and angled longitudinal webs;

multiple long fiber-reinforced plastic polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection to said lateral side of said vehicle and a lower end transversely extended integrally connected with said platform and being co-molded therewith, said brackets being of a triple channel configuration and wherein said channels have lateral sides continuous with said transverse webs of said platform, and a middle channel having a smaller width than adjacent channels.

17. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said fibers are glass fibers approximately 12[+] millimeters or more in length.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (NEW) A running board as described in claim 12 wherein said platform has a sidewall with an aperture to allow for drainage of precipitation adjacent said support bracket.

21. (NEW) A running board as described in claim 1 wherein said sidewalls of